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Before the FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION Washington, D.C. 20554

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISS
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
CC Docket No. 96-115

COMMENTS OF AMERITECH ON PETITIONS FOR RECONSIDERATION

Ameritech submits these comments on the petitions for reconsideration filed with respect to the Common Carrier Bureau's Clarification Order in the above-captioned proceeding.¹

Petitions were filed by GTE, Vanguard Cellular Systems, and Comcast Cellular Communications. All three petitions raise the issue of the effect on cellular carriers of the earlier CPNI Order's conclusion that CPNI may not be used to market CPE. Vanguard's and Comcast's filings simply include the petitions that they filed with respect to the CPNI Order on that issue. GTE's filing points out that the Clarification Order provides no relief in that regard even though the Bureau noted that, if a customer purchased CPE from the carrier, the carrier could use CPNI to market to that customer a bundle or package which included CPE.

Though all three petitioners allege "unique" aspects of the CMRS industry with respect to the inclusion of CPE in packages that might be marketed using CPNI, in fact the cellular

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¹ Order, DA 98-71 (released May 21, 1998) ("Clarification Order") clarifying the Commission's Second Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, FCC 98-27 (released February 26, 1998) ("CPNI Order").

situation involves merely a subset of the "customer-carrier relationship" applicable to any carrier which embraces customers' natural expectations that telecommunications-related products and services should be available to them from any carrier serving them. To that extent, Ameritech suggests the Commission address that larger issue by granting Ameritech's Petition for Reconsideration,² filed with respect to the CPNI Order, in that regard — in particular Ameritech's request that the Commission reconsider:

- (1) its conclusion that §222 prohibits the use of CPNI, without customer consent to market CPE and certain information services, such as voice mail, reasonably related to a carrier's telecommunications service offering or, in the alternative, pursuant to §10 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, to forbear from the application of §222 to the use of CPNI to market CPE and certain information services, such as voicemail; and
- (2) its conclusion that §222 prohibits the use of CPNI without customer consent, to market bundles or packages of products or services that contain "out-of-category" products or services, or, in the alternative, pursuant to §10 of the Communications Act of 1934, to forbear from the application of §222 to the use of CPNI to market bundles or packages of products or services that contain "out-of-category" products or services.

As Ameritech pointed out in its petition, customers' view of what is appropriate for their carrier to offer them extends beyond narrowly defined "telecommunications services" to products or services that have a reasonable and logical (in customers' minds) relationship to underlying carrier services. Using the Commission's own "total service" approach to CPNI, CPE and reasonably related information services should be considered within the bounds of the customer-carrier relationship.

² And other similar petitions -- e.g., those filed by Bell Atlantic, BellSouth, USTA, SBC, GTE, and NCTA.

By providing relief of this nature, the Commission can not only address the cellular situation but also align its rules to coincide with the expectations of customers of all types of carriers.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael S. Pabian

Counsel for Ameritech

Room 4H82

2000 West Ameritech Center Drive

Hoffman Estates, IL 60196-1025

(847) 248-6044

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Todd H. Bond, do hereby certify that a copy of the foregoing Comments of Ameritech on Petitions for Reconsideration has been served on the parties listed on the attached service list, via first class mail, postage prepaid, on this 26th day of August, 1998.

Todd H Bond

LEON M KESTENBAUM
JAY C KEITHLEY
MICHAEL B FINGERHUT
SPRINT CORPORATION
1850 M STREET NW 11TH FLOOR
WASHINGTON DC 20036

CHERYL A TRITT
JAMES A CASEY
MORRISON & FOERSTER LLP
360 COMMUNICATIONS COMPANY
2000 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE NW
WASHINGTON DC 20006-1888

JEFFREY E SMITH
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT &
GENERAL COUNSEL
COMCAST CELLULAR COMMUNICATIONS
INC
480 E SWEDESFORD ROAD
WAYNE PA 19087

LEONARD J KENNEDY
LAURA H PHILLIPS
CHRISTINA H BURROW
DOW LOHNES & ALBERTSON PLLC
SUITE 800
1200 NEW HAMPSHIRE AVE NW
WASHINGTON DC 20036

BENJAMIN H DICKENS JR
GERARD J DUFFY
SUSAN J BAHR
BLOOSTON MORDKOFSKY JACKSON &
DICKENS
COMMNET CELLULAR INC
SUITE 300
2120 L STREET NW
WASHINGTON DC 20037

L MARIE GUILLORY
JILL CANFIELD
NATIONAL TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE
ASSOCIATION
2626 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE NW
WASHINGTON DC 20037

MICHAEL J SHORTLEY III FRONTIER CORPORATION 180 SOUTH CLINTON AVENUE ROCHESTER NEW YORK 14646 R MICHAEL SENKOWSKI
MICHAEL YOURSHAW
GREGORY J VOGT
WILEY REIN & FIELDING
GTE SERVICE CORPORATION
1776 K STREET NW
WASHINGTON DC 20006-2304

JOHN F RAPOSA GTE SERVICE CORPORATION 600 HIDDEN RIDGE HQW03J27 IRVING TEXAS 75038 GAIL L POLIVY GTE SERVICE CORPORATION 1850 M STREET NW WASHINGTON DC 20036 FRANK W KROGH
MARY L BROWN
MCI TELECOMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION
1801 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE NW
WASHINGTON DC 20006

ROBERT M LYNCH
DURWARD D DUPRE
MICHAEL J ZPEVAK
ROBERT J GRYZMALA
SBC COMMUNICATIONS INC
ONE BELL CENTER ROOM 3532
ST LOUIS MISSOURI 63101

LAWRENCE W KATZ
BELL ATLANTIC TELEPHONE CORPORATION
8TH FLOOR
1320 N COURT HOUSE ROAD
ARLINGTON VA 22201

SYLVIA LESSE
PHILLIP MACRES
THE INDEPENDENT ALLIANCE
KRASKIN LESSE & COSSON LLP
SUITE 520
2120 L STREET NW
WASHINGTON DC 20037

FREDERICK M JOYCE CHRISTINE MCLAUGHLIN JOYCE & JACOBS ATTORNEYS AT LAW LLP RAM TECHNOLOGIES INC 1019 19TH STREET NW FOURTEENTH FLOOR PH2 WASHINGTON DC 20036 FREDERICK M JOYCE CHRISTINE MCLAUGHLIN METROCALL INC JOYCE & JACOBS ATTORNEYS AT LAW LLP 1019 19TH STREET NW FOURTEENTH FLOOR PH2 WASHINGTON DC 20036

RAYMOND G BENDER JR J G HARRINGTON VANGUARD CELLULAR SYSTEMS INC DOW LOHNES & ALBERTSON PLLC SUITE 800 1200 NEW HAMPSHIRE AVENUE NW WASHINGTON DC 20036 MARGOT SMILEY HUMPHREY
KOTEEN & NAFTALIN LLP
TDS TELECOMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION
SUITE 1000
1150 CONNECTICUT AVENUE NW
WASHINGTON DC 20036

JAMES J HALPERT
MARK J OCONNOR
PIPER & MARBURY LLP
OMNIPOINT COMMUNICATIONS INC
SEVENTH FLOOR
1200 19TH STREET NW
WASHINGTON DC 20036

M ROBERT SUTHERLAND A KIRVEN GILBERT III BELLSOUTH CORPORATION SUITE 1700 1155 PEACHTREE STREET NE ATLANTA GEORGIA 30309 ROBERT HOGGARTH
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT
PERSONAL COMMUNICATIONS
INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION
SUITE 700
500 MONTGOMERY STREET
ALEXANDRIA VA 22314-1561

WILLIAM L ROUGHTON JR
ASSOCIATE GENERAL COUNSEL
PRIMECO PERSONAL
COMMUNICATIONS LP
SUITE 320 SOUTH
601 13TH STREET NW
WASHINGTON DC 20005

FREDERICK M JOYCE CHRISTINE MC LAUGHLIN ATTORNEYS FOR CELPAGE 1019 19TH STREET NW SUITE PH2 WASHINGTON DC 20036 JUDITH ST LEDGER ROTY
PAUL G MADISON
KELLEY DRYE & WARREN LLP
PAGING NETWORK INC
SUITE 500
1200 19TH STREET NW
WASHINGTON DC 20036

MARK C ROSENBLUM JUDY SELLO AT&T CORPORATION ROOM 324511 295 NORTH MAPLE AVENUE BASKING RIDGE NEW JERSEY 07920 LAWRENCE E SARJEANT
LINDA KENT
KEITH TOWNSEND
UNITED STATES TELEPHONE ASSOCIATION
SUITE 600
1401 H STREET NW
WASHINGTON DC 20005

BRAD E MUTSCHELKNAUS STEVEN A AUGUSTINO KELLEY DRYE & WARREN LLP LCI INTERNATIONAL TELECOM CORP SUITE 500 1200 19TH STREET NW WASHINGTON DC 20036 DOUGLAS W KINKOPH J SCOTT NICHOLLS LCI INTERNATIONAL TELECOM CORP SUITE 800 8180 GREENSBORO DRIVE MCLEAN VA 22102

ROBERT J AAMOTH
STEVEN A AUGSTINO
KELLEY DRYE & WARREN LLP
COMPETITIVE TELECOMMUNICATIONS
ASSOCIATION
SUITE 500
1200 19TH STREET NW
WASHINGTON DC 20036

GENEVIEVE MORELLI
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT
COMPETITIVE TELECOMMUNICATIONS
ASSOCIATION
SUITE 800
1900 M STREET NW
WASHINGTON DC 20036

RACHEL J ROTHSTEIN PAUL W KENEFICK ATTORNEYS FOR CABLE & WIRELESS 8219 LEESBURG PIKE VIENNA VA 22182 KATHRYN MARIE KRAUSE ATTORNEY FOR U S WEST SUITE 700 1020 19TH STREET NW WASHINGTON DC 20036

S MARK TULLER
VICE PRESIDENT LEGAL AND EXTERNAL
AFFAIRS AND GENERAL COUNSEL
BELL ATLANTIC MOBILE INC
180 WASHINGTON VALLEY ROAD
BEDMINSTER NJ 07921

JOHN T SCOTT III
ATTORNEY FOR
BELL ATLANTIC MOBILE INC
1001 PENNSYLVANIA AVE NW
WASHINGTON DC 20004

JONATHAN E CANIS
MELISSA M SMITH
ATTORNEYS FOR INTERMEDIA
COMMUNICATIONS INC
1200 NINETEENTH STREET NW SUITE 500
WASHINGTON DC 20036

ROBERT W MC CAUSLAND
VICE PRESIDENT REGULATORY AND
INTERCONNECTION
ALLEGIANCE TELECOM INC
1950 STEMMONS FREEWAY SUITE 3026
DALLAS TX 75207-3118

DANA FRIX
RAYMOND J KIMBALL
COMMONWEALTH TELECOM SERVICES
3000 K STREET NW
WASHINGTON DC 20007

PAUL H KUZIA
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT
ARCH COMMUNICATIONS GROUP INC
1800 WEST PARK DRIVE SUITE 250
WESTBOROUGH MA 01581-3912

BRAD E MUTSCHELKNAUS
MARIEANN Z MACHIDA
ATTORNEYS FOR
E.SPIRE COMMUNICATIONS INC
SUITE 500
1200 19TH STREET NW
WASHINGTON DC 20036

JAMES C FALVEY
VICE PRESIDENT REGULATORY AFFAIRS
E.SPIRE COMMUNICATIONS INC
SUITE 100
131 NATIONAL BUSINESS PARKWAY
ANNAPOLIS JUNCTION MD 20701

RICHARD J METZGER
VICE PRESIDENT AND GENERAL COUNSEL
ASSOCIATION FOR LOCAL
TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICE
SUITE 900
888 17TH STREET NW
WASHINGTON DC 20006

DANA FRIX
RAYMOND J KIMBALL
ATTORNEYS FOR KMC TELECOM INC
3000 K STREET NW
WASHINGTON DC 20007

CATHERINE R SLOAN
RICHARD L FRUCHTERMAN
RICHARD S WHITT
ATTORNEYS FOR
WORLDCOM INC
1200 CONNECTICUT AVE NW SUITE 400
WASHINGTON DC 20036

PAMELA J RILEY
DAVID A GROSS
ATTORNEYS FOR
AIRTOUCH COMMUNICATIONS INC
1818 N STREET NW SUITE 800
WASHINGTON DC 20036

CHARLES C HUNTER
CATHERINE M HANNAN
ATTORNEYS FOR
TELECOMMUNICATIONS RESELLERS
ASSOCIATION
1620 I STREET NW SUITE 701
WASHINGTON DC 20006

DANA FRIX
RAYMOND J KIMBALL
ATTORNEYS FOR
FOCAL COMMUNICATIONS GROUP CORP
3000 K STREET NW
WASHINGTON DC 20007